

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00682 180014Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 INR-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 SSO-00

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O P 172300Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO: RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0473

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4413

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0083

USCINCSO 0003

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

S E C R E T BELIZE 0682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR BH GT UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH MILITARY MOVES

REF: GUATEMALA 5746

1. I DISCUSSED POINTS OF FONMIN MOLINA'S CONCERN WITH BOTH GOVERNOR POSNETT AND COL DUNCAN GREEN, COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES BELIZE.
2. BOTH ASSURED ME THAT REPORTED ARRIVAL OF EIGHT ADDITIONAL C-130'S WAS UNFOUNDED. (NOTE: PRECISE TALLY OF RAF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN PUMA TRANSPORT WAS FOUR C-130'S AND TWO BELFASTS OCT 12 PLUS ONE C-130 OCT 13. GOB ANNOUNCEMENT RE ARRIVAL OF PUMAS WAS CARRIED BY RADIO BELIZE OCT 14 AND 15.)
3. REPORT ON BRITISH FRIGATES ALSO APPEARS EXAGGERATED. FYI ONLY, ROYAL NAVY NORMALLY KEEPS TWO FRIGATES IN CARIBBEAN, ONE IN THE EAST THE OTHER IN THE WEST. COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES USUALLY HAS ONE OF THESE AT HIS DISPOSITION. AT THE MOMENT, ONE FRIGATE, HMS NUBIA (WHICH HAS RELIEVED THE MINERVA) IS

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ABOUT 450 MILES EAST OF BELIZE. COL GREEN THOUGHT INTENSIVE

TRAINING MIGHT INDEED BE GOING ON ABOARD VESSEL, CONCEIVABLY INVOLVING HELICOPTER AND EVEN SMOKE GENERATORS BUT THOUGHT GUATEMALANS SHOULD NOT FEEL IMPERILLED THEREBY. (END FYI) GREEN SAID HE COULD NOT AUTHORIZE PASSING DETAILS FOREGOING TO GUATEMALANS BUT AGREED FONMIN COULD BE TOLD THAT THE ONLY BRITISH FRIGATE IN AREA WAS OVER 400 MILES AWAY. INCIDENTALLY, NUBIA WILL BE MAKING PROTOCOL VISIT TO BELIZE SOMETIME IN NOV.

4. REPORT OF "FOUR TANK TRUCKS" MAY REFER TO FOUR TON TRUCKS A FEW OF WHICH, TOGETHER WITH SOME RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES ARRIVED IN PLANES ALONG WITH PUMAS.

5. COL CASTELLANOS, GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL WAS JUST LEAVING GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AS I ARRIVED. HE, TOO, HAD BEEN INQUIRING ABOUT BRITISH FRIGATES. H.E. HAD ASSURED HIM REPORT WAS GROUNDLESS AND HAD THOUGHT CASTELLANOS HAD BEEN REASSURED; HOWEVER, LATTER ASKED IF GOVERNOR WOULD MIND IF HE CHARTERED A MAYAN AIRLINES PLANE (SINGLE ENGINE CESSNA) FOR HIS OWN RECONNAISSANCE OF BELIZEAN WATERS. H.E. HAD GLADLY ASSENTED.

6. RE PUMAS AND ACCOMPANYING MEN AND EQUIPMENT, BOTH GOVERNOR AND COL GREEN OPINED THAT SO SMALL AN INCREMENT OF BRITISH MILITARY CAPABILITY, ENTIRELY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY RESTRAINED RESPONSE TO BELLICOSE GUATEMALAN BEHAVIOR OF LAST TWO MONTHS AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT IT HAD CAUSED SUCH FUROR IN GUATEMALA.  
GAWF

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